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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06527 260843Z

15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /119 W
---------- 064853
P R 260849Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 269
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6527

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: VERDICT IN CASE OF REV. PAK HYUNG-KYU

1. SEOUL CRIMINAL COURT PRONOUNCED SENTENCE ON REV. PAK HYUNG-KYU AND CO-DEFENDENTS SEPTEMBER 25. PAK RECEIVED TWO YEARS, WE ARE TOLD JUDGE MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN SENTENCING PAK: "THE SENTENCE FOR YOUR ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT IS THREE YEARS, BUT IN CONSIDERATION OF YOUR STATUS IN SOCIETY AND YOUR BEING A CLERGYMAN I SENTENCE YOU TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON. IF YOU WANT TO APPEAL TO A HIGHER COURT YOU HAVE ONE WEEK TO DO SO."

2. THE OTHER DEFENDENTS WERE SENTENCED AS FOLLOWS: KWON O-KYONG, TWO YEARS; NAM SANG-O, EIGHTEEN MONTHS; YI CHANG-NAM, ONE YEAR.

3. SPECTATORS WERE BARRED FROM COURT ROOM DURING PROCEEDINGS, BUT REPORTEDLY SOME 400 PERSONS, AMONG THEM KOREAN CHURCH LEADERS AND MISSIONARIES, ASSEMBLED AT COURT HOUSE. PRESS AND RADIO REACTIONS SO FAR MINIMAL, ANNOUNCING SENTENCES WITHOUT COMMENT.

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4. COMMENT: DIFENDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO APPEAL.

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CHURCH LEADERS CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED OVER SENTENCE.
AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THEY HAD EXPECTED GOVERNMENT
TO EITHER SUSPEND SENTENCE OR GIVE REVEREND
PARK PAROLE. WHILE THESE POSSIBILITIES NOT YET
RULED OUT EITHER BY AN APPEAL OR BY EXECUTIVE ACTION,
COURT DECISON WAS AN UNHAPPY SURPRISE TO
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

5. WE ARE TAKING SOUNDINGS AMONG CHRISTIAN
LEADERS ON THEIR REACTIONS AND THEIR NEXT MOVES.
AMBASSADOR IS CONTINUING TO IMPRESS ON
RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICERS OUR CONCERN OVER CASE
AND ITS IMPACT OUTSIDE OF KOREA.
HABIB

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# Message Attributes

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